

Amendments to the claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of controlling frequency hopping wireless communications between first and second frequency hopping wireless communication devices, comprising:

~~the first device~~ determining by the first device that a first frequency of a predetermined frequency hopping pattern associated with transmissions by the second device is better than a second frequency of the predetermined frequency hopping pattern for transmission of a selected communication from the second device to the first device via a wireless communication link, wherein the second frequency is specified by the predetermined frequency hopping pattern for the selected communication and the first frequency is specified by the predetermined frequency hopping pattern for a communication from the second device to the first device that most closely precedes in time the selected communication;

responsive to said determining step, ~~the first device~~ instructing the second device by the first device via the wireless communication link to deviate from the predetermined frequency hopping pattern and use the first frequency for transmission of the selected communication instead of the second frequency; and

responsive to said instructing step, ~~the second device~~ transmitting the selected communication on the first frequency by the second device via the wireless communication link.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said determining step includes considering first channel quality information associated with the first frequency and second channel quality information associated with the second frequency.

3. The method of Claim 2, wherein the first channel quality information and the second channel quality information include information indicative of signal-to-noise plus interference ratios respectively associated with transmissions on the first and second frequencies.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said determining step includes determining that the second frequency is fading.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein said determining step includes considering sync word correlation information associated with transmissions on the first and second frequencies.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein said determining step includes considering packet error information associated with transmissions on the first and second frequencies.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein said first and second devices are, respectively, Bluetooth master and slave devices.

8. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, including ~~the first device~~ determining by the first device that a third frequency of a further frequency hopping pattern associated with transmissions by the first device is better than a fourth frequency of the further frequency hopping pattern for transmission of a further selected communication from the first device to the second device via the wireless communication link, wherein the fourth frequency is specified by the further frequency hopping pattern for the further selected communication and the third frequency is specified by the further frequency hopping pattern for a communication from the first device to the second device that most closely precedes the further selected communication, and, responsive to said last-mentioned determining step, ~~the first device~~ informing the second device by the first device via the wireless communication link that the first device will deviate from the further frequency hopping pattern and use the third frequency for transmission of the further selected communication instead of the fourth frequency and, responsive to said informing step, ~~the second device~~ receiving by the second device the further selected communication from the wireless communication link on the third frequency.

9. (Currently amended) A method of controlling frequency hopping wireless communications between first and second frequency hopping wireless communication devices, comprising:

~~the first device~~ determining by the first device that a first frequency of a predetermined frequency hopping pattern associated with transmissions by the first device is better than a second frequency of the predetermined frequency hopping pattern for transmission of a selected communication from the first device to the second device via a wireless communication link, wherein the second frequency is specified by the predetermined frequency hopping pattern for the selected communication and the first frequency is specified by the predetermined frequency hopping pattern for a communication from the first device to the second device that most closely precedes in time the selected communication;

responsive to said determining step, ~~the first device~~ using said most closely preceding communication and the first frequency by the first device to inform the second device via the wireless communication link that the first device will deviate from its predetermined frequency hopping pattern and use the first frequency for transmission of the selected communication instead of the second frequency; and

responsive to said informing step, ~~the second device~~ receiving the selected communication by the second device via the wireless communication link on the first frequency.

10. The method of Claim 9, wherein said determining step includes considering information indicative of potential interference at the first frequency and at the second frequency.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein said determining step includes determining that an interferer is operating at the second frequency.

12. The method of Claim 9, wherein said first and second devices are, respectively, Bluetooth master and slave devices.

13. (Currently amended) A frequency hopping wireless communication apparatus, comprising:

a determiner for determining whether a first frequency of a predetermined frequency hopping pattern associated with transmissions by a further frequency hopping wireless communication apparatus is better than a second frequency of the predetermined frequency hopping pattern for receiving a selected communication transmitted by the further apparatus, wherein the second frequency is specified by the predetermined frequency hopping pattern for the selected communication and the first frequency is specified by the predetermined frequency hopping pattern for a communication from the further apparatus to said apparatus that most closely precedes in time the selected communication; and

a wireless communication interface coupled to said determiner, and responsive to an indication from said determiner that the first frequency is better than the second frequency, for instructing the further apparatus via a wireless communication link to deviate from the predetermined frequency hopping pattern and use the first frequency for transmission of the selected communication instead of the second frequency.

14. The apparatus of Claim 13, provided as a Bluetooth master device.

15. The apparatus of Claim 13, provided in a base unit of a cordless telephone system.

16. (Currently amended) A frequency hopping wireless communication apparatus, comprising:

a wireless communication interface for receiving from a further frequency hopping wireless communication apparatus via a wireless communication link an indication that a first frequency of a predetermined frequency hopping pattern associated with transmissions by said apparatus is better than a second frequency of the predetermined frequency hopping pattern for transmission of a selected communication from said apparatus to the further apparatus via the wireless communication link, wherein the second frequency is specified by the predetermined frequency hopping pattern for the selected communication and the first frequency is specified by

the predetermined frequency hopping pattern for a communication from said apparatus to the further apparatus that most closely precedes in time the selected communication; and

an indicator coupled to said wireless communication interface and responsive to said indication for informing said wireless communication interface that the predetermined frequency hopping pattern will be deviated from in order to use the first frequency for transmission of the selected communication instead of the second frequency.

17. The apparatus of Claim 16, provided as a Bluetooth slave device.

18. The apparatus of Claim 16, provided in a cordless telephone.

19. (Currently amended) A frequency hopping wireless communication apparatus, comprising:

a determiner for determining whether a first frequency of a predetermined frequency hopping pattern associated with transmissions by said apparatus is better than a second frequency of the predetermined frequency hopping pattern for transmitting a selected communication to a further frequency hopping wireless communication apparatus via a wireless communication link, wherein the second frequency is specified by the predetermined frequency hopping pattern for the selected communication and the first frequency is specified by the predetermined frequency hopping pattern for a communication from said apparatus to the further apparatus that most closely precedes in time the selected communication; and

a wireless communication interface coupled to said determiner, and responsive to an indication from said determiner that the first frequency is better than the second frequency, for using said most closely preceding communication and the first frequency to inform the further apparatus via the wireless communication link that said apparatus will deviate from the predetermined frequency hopping pattern and use the first frequency for transmission of the selected communication instead of the second frequency.

20. The apparatus of Claim 19, provided as a Bluetooth master device.

21. The apparatus of Claim 19, provided in a base unit of a cordless telephone system.

22. The apparatus of Claim 19, including a further determiner for determining whether a third frequency of a further frequency hopping pattern associated with transmissions by the further apparatus is better than a fourth frequency of the further frequency hopping pattern for receiving a further selected communication transmitted by the further apparatus, wherein the fourth frequency is specified by the further frequency hopping pattern for the further selected communication and the third frequency is specified by the further frequency hopping pattern for a communication from the further apparatus to said apparatus that most closely precedes the further selected communication, said wireless communication interface coupled to said further determiner and responsive to a further indication from said further determiner that the third frequency is better than the fourth frequency for instructing the further apparatus via the wireless communication link to deviate from the further frequency hopping pattern and use the third frequency for transmission of the further selected communication instead of the fourth frequency.

23. (Currently amended) A frequency hopping wireless communication apparatus, comprising:

a wireless communication interface for receiving from a further frequency hopping wireless communication apparatus via a wireless communication link a first communication on a first frequency specified for said first communication by a predetermined frequency hopping pattern associated with transmissions by the further apparatus, said first communication including an indication that said first frequency is better than a second frequency of the predetermined frequency hopping pattern for transmitting via the wireless communication link a second communication from the further apparatus to said apparatus that most closely follows in time said first communication, wherein the second frequency is specified by the predetermined frequency hopping pattern for the second communication; and

an indicator coupled to said wireless communication interface and responsive to said indication for informing said wireless communication interface that the predetermined frequency

hopping pattern will be deviated from and the first frequency will be used to receive the second communication instead of the second frequency.

24. The apparatus of Claim 23, provided as a Bluetooth slave device.

25. The apparatus of Claim 23, provided in a cordless telephone.

26. The apparatus of Claim 23, wherein said wireless communication interface is further for receiving from the further apparatus via the wireless communication link a further indication that a third frequency of a frequency hopping pattern associated with transmissions by said apparatus is better than a fourth frequency of the frequency hopping pattern for transmission of a selected communication from said apparatus to the further apparatus via the wireless communication link, wherein the fourth frequency is specified by the further frequency hopping pattern for the selected communication and the third frequency is specified by the further frequency hopping pattern for a communication from said apparatus to the further apparatus that most closely precedes the selected communication, and further including a further indicator coupled to said wireless communication interface and responsive to said further indication for informing said wireless communication interface that the further frequency hopping pattern will be deviated from in order to use the third frequency for transmission of the selected communication instead of the fourth frequency.